

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A powder metal cladding nozzle which is coaxially attached to a laser processing head that irradiates a process portion with a laser beam and that discharges powder metal to a laser beam irradiation portion in the process portion, comprising  
a body portion that has a ring-shaped powder metal holding space in which the powder metal is held; and

a nozzle portion that is connected to the body portion and that has plural discharge passages which are communicated with the powder metal holding space and which open at an outlet for discharging the powder metal, ~~wherein~~ wherein:

the powder metal holding space is within the body portion and is divided into plural powder metal holding regions corresponding to plural supply passages that open into the powder metal holding space and that supply the powder metal to the powder metal holding space, and

the body portion includes a dividing portion that divides the powder metal holding space into the plural powder metal holding regions.

2. (Currently Amended) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 1, wherein

the body portion includes an outer side member and an inner side member which is within the outer side member,

the powder metal holding space comprises surfaces of the inner side member and the outer side member, and

the inner side member includes ~~a~~ the dividing portion for dividing the powder metal holding space into the plural powder metal holding regions.

3. (Original) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 2, wherein the inner side member includes the dividing portion and an inner side body portion, and

the dividing portion is attachable to/detachable from the inner side body portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 2, wherein

the dividing portion includes plural dividing members, and widths of the powder metal holding regions are adjustable by adjusting distances between the adjacent ~~diving~~ dividing members among the plural dividing members.

5. (Previously Presented) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 1, wherein

the nozzle portion includes an outer side nozzle member and an inner side nozzle member having plural groove portions in an outer surface, and

the discharge passages comprise passages defined by the plural groove portions and a surface of the outer side nozzle member.

6. (Previously Presented) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 5, wherein

the inner side nozzle member is within the outer side nozzle member such that an end of the inner side nozzle member is recessed with respect to an end of the outer side nozzle member by a predetermined amount in an axial direction of the nozzle portion.

7. (Previously Presented) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 1, wherein

the supply passages are communicated to the powder metal holding regions at a central portion of an arc of each the powder metal holding regions such that the powder metal is supplied to the powder metal holding regions toward a center of the arc.

8. (Previously Presented) The powder metal cladding nozzle according to claim 1, wherein

a supply passage of the plural supply passages is communicated to a powder metal holding region of the plural powder metal holding regions at a central portion of an arc of the powder metal holding region such that the powder metal is supplied to the powder metal holding region toward a center of the arc.